GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HOME AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:377
ANSWERED ON:22.08.2006
SECURITY OF TAJ MAHAL
Rawat Shri Ashok Kumar;Shiwankar Shri Maha Deo Rao

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government has approved any plan for tightening of the security of Taj Mahal;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the amount sanctioned in this regard;

(c) whether the responsibility of Taj Mahal security is proposed to be handed over to the Archaeological Survey of India;

(d) if so, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether any plan is under consideration of the Government for protecting all such religious sites/places in the country; and

(f) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL)

(a) to (f): A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (A) TO (F) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION No.377 DATED 22nd AUGUST, 2006.

(a): Yes sir.

(b): The Government of Uttar Pradesh had formulated a proposal in August, 2005 for strengthening the existing security scheme of Taj Mahal. This proposal consisting of procurement of security equipments and construction of certain security works of Taj Mahal was approved involving an expenditure of Rs. 77.21 lakhs. As Taj Mahal is a national monument maintained by Archeological Survey of India the above proposal had been referred to that organization.

(c) & (d): No Sir. Security of Taj Mahal is provided as per scheme approved by Hon'ble Supreme Court of India. Central Industrial Security Force (CISF) has been deployed in the inner cordon while outer security is provided by the Uttar Pradesh Police as per the security scheme.

(e) & (f): "Law and Order" and "Police" being a State subject, security of religious sites/places is the responsibility of the concerned State/UT Government. Ministry of Home Affairs keeps the concerned States fully briefed about the threat perception about these places. Ministry of Home Affairs also issues necessary advisories for strengthening the security of religious sites/places to the concerned State & U.T. on receipt of specific threat inputs. Assistance is also provided by the Central Government to the States/UTs for strengthening and modernization of their police forces under the Modernization of Police Forces (MPF) Scheme.